

7. (Amended) A method for producing a fuse connection box provided with a fuse and a housing for attaching the fuse, comprising the steps of:

installing a first side terminal into a first side housing, said first side housing having an engagement portion,

installing a second side terminal into a second side housing, said second side housing having an engagement portion,

after said installing steps, engaging the engagement portions of said first side housing and second side housing to join them, and

attaching a fuse to the joined housings.

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 15, 2001, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments. By this paper, Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Therefore, Claims 1-7 are presented for reconsideration and further examination.

The changes made to the claims by the current amendment, including ~~deletions~~ and additions, are shown on an attached sheet entitled VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, which follows the signature page of this amendment.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2 and 7 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,391,485 to Urani. The Examiner has also rejected claims 3-6 as being unpatentable over the '485 Patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,758,184 to Call.

The examiner asserts that Urani discloses two identical halves joined to form a fuse box where each half is interchangeable and engageable with another identical half to hold a fuse. Urani shows the two halves being snapped together to hold the fuse terminals. However, Urani does not show a housing "comprising a first side housing in which a first side terminal of an end of a first side wire is pre-assembled, and a second side housing in which a second side terminal of an end of a second side wire is separately pre-assembled," as is recited in Claim 1. Urani also does not show "engaging the engagement portions of said first side housing and second side

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housing to join them”, after installing the terminals into each first and second side housings, as recited in Claim 7.

In contrast, Urani discloses that “each casing half 14 further includes a cutout 68 formed along the top thereof to allow for easy visual inspection of the condition of fuse 16, recesses 66 and 67 which permit the passage of wires 18 from the inside to the outside of an assembled casing 12, and recesses 28 and 30 for receipt of clip assemblies 38 when casing halves are assembled into a complete casing 12.”. Thus, the protective bags that are used to cover the terminals prior to assembly into the housing as described in the specification of the present application are still required because terminal installation into the housing is not completed until the entire fuse housing is assembled. The Urani device thus suffers from the same problems as are discussed in the specification with regard to the prior art fuse holders. Neither Urani nor Call teach or suggest pre-assembling the side terminals of each housing before assembling the housing halves into the completed fuse holder.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 7 are in condition for allowance. It is also respectfully submitted that Claims 2-6, being dependent on Claim 1, are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The applicant has endeavored to address all of the Examiner’s concerns as expressed in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, amendments to the claims pursuant to statutory sections 102 and 103, the reasons therefor, and arguments in support of the patentability of the pending claim set are presented above. In light of these amendments and remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Any claim amendments which are not specifically discussed in the above remarks are not made for patentability purposes, do not narrow the claims, and it is believed that the claims would satisfy the statutory requirements for patentability without the entry of such amendments. Rather, these amendments have only been made to increase claim readability, to improve grammar, and to reduce the time and effort required of those in the art to clearly understand the scope of the claim language.

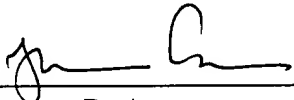
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If the Examiner has any questions which may be answered by telephone, he is invited to call the undersigned directly.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) A fuse connection box comprising a fuse and a housing for attaching the fuse:

said housing ~~being divided into~~ comprising a first side housing in which a first side terminal of an end of a first side wire is pre-assembled, and a second side housing in which a second side terminal of an end of a second side wire is separately pre-assembled,

said first side housing and second side housing having portions for engagement with each other, and

said first side housing and second side housing being engaged to form a single housing in which said fuse can be attached.

7. (Amended) A method for producing a fuse connection box provided with a fuse and a housing for attaching the fuse, comprising the steps of:

~~producing separately installing a first side terminal housing in which into a first side housing terminal of an end of a first side wire is assembled and, said first side housing having an engagement portion and a second side housing in which a second side terminal of an end of a second side wire is assembled and having an engagement portion,~~

installing a second side terminal into a second side housing, said second side housing having an engagement portion,

after said installing steps, engaging the engagement portions of said first side housing and second side housing to join them, and

attaching a fuse to the joined housings.

AMEND
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